

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/684,986

Examiner

Oanh Duong

Applicant(s)

LAKE, JOHN M.

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2155

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 07/13/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-5,7-9,11-13,15-17,19-21,23,24,26,28 and 30.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☒ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☒ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


SALEH NAJJAR
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Joseph T. Van Leeuwen (Registration No. 44,383) on October 25, 2006.

The claims of the invention are amended as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method of managing instant messenger list[[s]], said method comprising:

selecting, by a user, one or more calendar entries from an electronic calendar that corresponds to a user, wherein the selected one or more calendar entries appear highlighted;

retrieving, from the selected one or more calendar entries, calendar data that includes contact data for a plurality of contacts of the selected one or more calendar entries;

~~receiving, from one or more computerized sources, contact data corresponding to a plurality of contacts;~~

adding the received ~~retrieved~~ contact data to [[a]] the buddy instant messenger list associated with a user's ~~an~~ instant messaging computer application ~~used by the user~~;

selecting one of the contacts added to the user's ~~buddy~~ instant messenger list;

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establishing an instant messaging session with the selected contact;

creating ~~[[a]]~~ one or more buddy groups within the user's buddy instant messenger list by automatically adding the contacts to the one or more buddy groups, wherein the created one or more buddy groups corresponds to ~~[[a]]~~ the selected one or more calendar entries ~~entry from an electronic calendar corresponding to the user;~~

storing the retrieved contact data in the one or more buddy groups,
wherein the contact data received includes the contacts' information;

identifying that at least one of the contacts added to the user's instant messenger list is a temporary contact;

storing an expiration date corresponding to each of the temporary contacts;

periodically comparing a current date to the expiration dates stored for the temporary contacts; and

in response to the comparison, removing the contact data corresponding to the temporary contacts when the expiration date has occurred.

~~prior to the reception of the contact data:~~

~~selecting the calendar entry from the user's electronic calendar; and~~

~~retrieving, from the selected calendar entry, calendar data that includes participant information for participants of the selected calendar entry; and~~

~~subsequent to the reception of the contact data:~~

~~storing the received contact data in the buddy group, wherein the contact data received includes the participant information.~~

2. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) An information handling system comprising:

one or more processors;

a memory accessible by the one or more processors;

a network interface connecting the information handling system to a computer network;

a software tool for managing an instant messenger list[[s]], the software tool including software embedded in the memory, when executed by the processor, effective to:

select, by a user, one or more calendar entries from a user's electronic calendar, wherein the selected one or more calendar entries appear highlighted;

retrieve, from the selected one or more calendar entries, calendar data that includes contact data corresponding to a plurality of contacts of the selected one or more calendar entries;

~~receive, from one or more computerized sources, contact data corresponding to a plurality of contacts;~~

add the received retrieved contact data to [[a]] buddy the instant messenger list associated with a user's instant messaging computer application used by the user;

select one of the contacts added to the user's buddy instant messenger list; and

establish an instant messaging session with the selected one of the contacts;

create [[a]] one or more buddy groups within the user's buddy instant messenger list by automatically adding the contacts to the one or

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more buddy groups, wherein the created one or more buddy groups corresponds to [[a]] the selected one or more calendar entries entry from an electronic calendar corresponding to the user;

store the retrieved contact data in the one or more buddy groups, wherein the contact data received includes the contacts' information;

periodically compare a current date to expiration dates stored for temporary contacts; and

in response to the comparison, remove the contact data corresponding the temporary contacts when the expiration date associated with the contact data has occurred.

~~prior to the reception of the contact data:~~

~~select the calendar entry from the user's electronic calendar; and~~

~~retrieve, from the selected calendar entry, calendar data that includes participant information for participants of the selected calendar entry; and~~

~~subsequent to the reception of the contact data:~~

~~store the received contact data in the buddy group, wherein the contact data received includes the participant information.~~

10. (canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A computer program product stored on a computer operable storage media for managing instant messenger list[[s]], said computer program product comprising software effective to:

selecting, by the user, one or more calendar entries from an electronic calendar that corresponds to a user, wherein the selected one or more calendar entries appear highlighted;

retrieving, from the selected one or more calendar entries, calendar data that includes contact data corresponding to a plurality of contacts of the selected one or more calendar entries;

~~receiving, from one or more computerized sources, contact data corresponding to a plurality of contacts;~~

adding the received contact data to a ~~buddy~~ an instant messenger list associated with a ~~user's~~ an instant messaging computer application used by the user;

selecting one of the contacts added to the user's ~~buddy~~ instant messenger list;

establishing an instant messaging session with the selected contact;

creating ~~[[a]]~~ one or more buddy groups within the user's ~~buddy~~ instant messenger list automatically adding the contacts to the one or more buddy groups, wherein the created one or more buddy groups corresponds to ~~[[a]]~~ the selected one or more calendar entries ~~entry from an electronic calendar corresponding to the user;~~

storing the received contact data in the one or more buddy groups, wherein the contact data received includes the contacts' information;

identifying that at least one of the contacts added to the user's instant messenger list is a temporary contact;

storing an expiration date corresponding to each of the temporary contacts;

periodically comparing a current date to the expiration dates stored for the temporary contacts; and

in response to the comparison, removing the contact data corresponding the temporary contacts when the expiration date associated with the contact data has occurred.

~~prior to the reception of the contact data:~~

~~selecting the calendar entry from the user's electronic calendar; and~~

~~retrieving, from the selected calendar entry, calendar data that includes participant information for participants of the selected calendar entry; and~~

~~subsequent to the reception of the contact data:~~

~~storing the received contact data in the buddy group, wherein the contact data received includes the participant information.~~

18. (Canceled)

25. (canceled)

26. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method of managing instant messenger list[[s]], said method comprising:

selecting, by a user, one or more calendar entries from an electronic calendar that corresponds to a user, wherein the selected one or more calendar entries appear highlighted;

retrieving, from the selected one or more calendar entries, calendar data that includes contact data for a plurality of contacts of the selected one or more calendar entries;

creating [[a]] one or more buddy groups within [[a]] the user's buddy list by automatically adding the contacts to the one or more buddy groups, wherein the created one or more buddy groups corresponds to [[a]] the one or more selected calendar entries ~~entry~~ from an the electronic calendar corresponding to the user, and wherein the user's buddy list is associated with an instant messaging computer application;

identifying an expiration date of the buddy group, the expiration date derived from a date of the selected one or more calendar entries ~~entry~~;

retrieving, from the selected one or more calendar entries ~~entry~~, calendar data that includes contact data for participants of the selected one or more calendar ~~entry~~ entries;

storing the ~~received~~ retrieved contact data in the one or more buddy groups, wherein the contact data received includes ~~the~~ participant information;

periodically comparing a current date to ~~the~~ expiration date corresponding to the one or more buddy groups; and

removing the one or more buddy groups, including the contact data added to the one or more buddy groups, in response to the comparison.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently amended) An information handling system comprising:

one or more processors;

a memory accessible by the one or more processors;

a network interface connecting the information handling system to a computer network;

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a software tool for managing instant messenger list[[s]], the software tool including software effective to:

select, by a user, one or more calendar entries from an electronic calendar that corresponds to a user, wherein the selected one or more calendar entries appear highlighted;

retrieve, from the selected one or more calendar entries, calendar data that includes contact data for a plurality of contacts of the selected one or more calendar entries;

create [[a]] one or more buddy groups within a user's buddy list by automatically adding the contacts to the one or more buddy groups, wherein the created one or more buddy groups corresponds to [[a]] the selected one or more calendar entries entry from [[an]] the electronic calendar corresponding to the user, and wherein the user's buddy list is associated with an instant messaging computer application;

identify an expiration date of each of the one or more buddy groups, the expiration date derived from a date of the selected one or more calendar entries entry;

retrieve, from the selected one or more calendar entries entry, calendar data that includes contact data for participants of the selected one or more calendar entry entries;

store the received retrieved contact data in the one or more buddy groups, wherein the contact data received retrieved includes the participant information;

periodically compare a current date to the expiration date corresponding to each of the one or more buddy groups; and

remove the one or more buddy groups, including the contact data added to the one or more buddy groups, in response to the comparison.

29. (Canceled)

30. (Previously presented) A computer program product stored on a computer operable storage media for managing instant messenger list[[s]], said computer program product comprising software effective to:

selecting, by a user, one or more calendar entries from an electronic calendar that corresponds to a user, wherein the selected one or more calendar entries appear highlighted;

in response to the selecting step, retrieving, from the selected one or more calendar entries, calendar data that includes contact data for a plurality of contacts of the selected one or more calendar entries;

creating [[a]] one or more buddy groups within [[a]] the user's buddy list by automatically adding the contacts to the one or more buddy groups, wherein the created one or more buddy groups corresponds to [[a]] the one or more selected calendar entries ~~entry~~ from ~~an~~ the electronic calendar corresponding to the user, and wherein the user's buddy list is associated with an instant messaging computer application;

identifying an expiration date of each of the one or more buddy groups, the expiration date derived from a date of the selected one or more calendar entries ~~entry~~;

retrieving, from the selected one or more calendar entries ~~entry~~, calendar data that includes contact data for participants of the selected one or more calendar ~~entry~~ entries;

storing the ~~received~~ retrieved contact data in the one or more buddy groups, wherein the contact data received includes the participant information;

periodically comparing a current date to the expiration date corresponding to each of the buddy groups; and

removing each of the buddy groups, including the contact data added to the buddy groups, in response to the comparison.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The invention as claimed. The claims 1, 9, 17, 26, 28, and 30 specially include limitations based ***selecting, by a user, calendar entries from an electronic calendar that corresponds to a user, wherein the selected calendar entries appear highlighted; retrieving, from each of the selected calendar entries, a plurality of contacts; and creating a plurality of buddy groups within the user's buddy list by automatically adding the plurality of contacts associated with each of the selected calendar entries to said each of the plurality of buddy groups, wherein each created group corresponds to each of the selected calendar entries, and the contacts and the buddy groups can be designated as a temporary contact and a temporary group*** (as defined in applicants' specification from page 12 line 1 to page 13 line 28) . Although system and method for generating a list of people based on the results of the received query is firmly documented by cited prior art, the *selecting, by a user, calendar entries from an electronic calendar that corresponds to a user, wherein the selected calendar entries appear highlighted; retrieving, from each of the selected*

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calendar entries, a plurality of contacts; and creating a plurality of buddy groups within the user's buddy list by automatically adding the plurality of contacts associated with each of the selected calendar entries to said each of the plurality of buddy groups, wherein each created group corresponds to each of the selected calendar entries, and the contacts and the buddy groups can be designated as a temporary contact and a temporary group limitations are novel and the invention is patentable.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Oanh Duong whose telephone number is (571) 272-3983. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday- Friday, 9:30PM - 6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Saleh Najjar can be reached on (571) 272-4006. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

o.d

October 29, 2006


SALEH NAJJAR
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER